THE MERIDIAN
SWAVESEY

No. 188 February/March 2021

EDITORIAL

As we get to February hopefully life will be getting back towards normal. There is a lot to look at in this issue, more on the floods that wreaked havoc in 1947 - to see more photos on this go to the website. They used to call February “February fill Dyke” on the fens - that year it lived up to its name!

Village news and community activities plus information on a lot of groups and organisations are all to be found in your Meridian.

A year ago we were still waiting for the A14 to be finished- now it is (almost) and we have a quiet road to get to St Ives and Bar Hill with a link to a cycle route that goes to Girton. All we need now is for all the damage done to our local roads to be repaired!.

Check out the community orchard soon there will be blossom on all the trees it will be a lovely walk on a sunny spring day.

Check out our new section “Feature Articles” on the website www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk where you will find extra photos etc. that we did not have room for in the magazine.

Deadline for the April/May issue is **20 February** please.

Editor!

Cover Image - Crocuses by Edwin Parish

Inside Front Cover - Middle Fen in Winter by Simon Shore

Inside Back Cover - Anemones by Edwin Parish

Back Cover - Camera Club Digital Exhibition Poster

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ADVERTISING Rates FOR 2021

Our charges for advertising have to rise a small amount as we anticipate that we will need to print more copies for the new housing developments in the village. Please see the new charges at the end of the "Advertiser" section of the magazine.

We have kept these as low as we can and remember you get an entry on the website for free.

Editor

Major Events List

This list is intended to avoid major events clashing on the same day. It will only work if we are advised of all such events, so please let us know as soon as you can confirm the details.

A form is available at the back of this magazine. We will list them in this section of the Magazine and also on our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk

No Major Events in this issue owing to Covid 19

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

February		
Thursday 4	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 11	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
Thursday 18	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 25	Refuse Collection	Blue Bin Only
March		
Thursday 4	Refuse Collection	Black Bin Collection
Thursday 11	Refuse Collection	Green & Blue Bins
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Thursday 25	Refuse Collection	Blue Bin Only

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CLUB REPORTS

Swavesey Spartans FC

After weeks of inactivity, it was great to get back to playing football and the season started in September allowing children of all ages to get back outside and play some sport. We managed a handful of games until Lockdown2 hit us and again we had a 4 week break. COVID lockdown has been tough on everyone and the players at Swavesey Spartans have also had to endure so much with these lockdowns with regards to their football and their schooling.

Some players had exams to deal with, so the 4 week break was well timed as they could cram for the exams but it also meant they didn't have a chance to get out and take their minds off it all.

So when we were allowed to get back to football it was great to see the enthusiasm the players came back with. If COVID wasn't bad enough, the weather then decided to hit us with a few days of rain and the pitches struggled to cope with the matches and many games had to be postponed. It has been frustrating, but we have still managed to get games played and many thanks to Swavesey Village College for working hard to make sure games could continue.

Hopefully, next season, will see a new 3G all weather pitch located at the college which has been years in the planning, and we can finally see it all coming together. The full size 3G floodlit pitch has been supported by Cambs FA, Football Foundation, Swavesey Parish Council, Swavesey Village College, Swavesey Spartans and Swavesey Institute Football clubs.

This artificial pitch will be a huge help in getting games played as many grass pitches become unplayable due to the wet weather. This will also be a great, much needed, facility for the college.

2021 will hopefully see the club grow with more age groups joining our present 16 teams. The club have also applied to operate a Wildcats centre to support our mission of providing football for all and getting more girls into the game. If approved, we will be looking to provide additional football sessions for up to 40 girls aged 5-11 from Swavesey and the surrounding villages. We hope to start running these sessions from April, so if you are interested or know of someone who may be, then please contact the club for more information.

It's going to be an exciting year for Spartans and hopefully, COVID permitting, we can get our leagues finished and look forward to new facilities for the 2021/2022 season

Keep safe
Swavesey Chairperson

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Hale Road Allotments

The strange year has drawn to a close and we managed a zoom AGM in November successfully although I was expecting more to join in than did. The incumbent officers were all re-elected so the contact points remain the same.

2020 was challenging but we managed to keep the site open and safe. It was a very successful summer for most members with good crops of a variety of fruit and vegetables. Although we had to cancel some of our social activities we hope these will be reinstated in 2021. Sadly we lost two of our founding members in 2020 through non virus illnesses and they will be sorely missed. Both were very active and kept tidy, productive plots.

At the end of the year we at last managed to get a delivery of two truck loads of soil improver which will be welcomed by many. Winter months are not too busy as the weeds normally take a break so members will get their exercise using a wheelbarrow to shift it onto their plots.

Soil improver made from the contents of the green bins is not particularly high in nutrients but is very effective at lightening heavy soils. When used with a dressing of manure it creates good growing conditions on the Hale Road plots. Unfortunately it also washes away over time so it needs to be reapplied at regular intervals.

In the past year members found more time on their hands so the site looks in very good condition, a weed walkover at the end of November only raised a few minor issues which were addressed quickly. This year we had seven new members and they have all started their plots with enthusiasm turning around some that had got a bit overgrown, so well done to each. We have a waiting list which is estimated at about 1-2years, so anyone interested in taking on an enjoyable and healthy pastime now is the time to get your name down, contact details in the club information section of the Meridian.

We look forward with anticipation to a better 2021 and another successful growing season.

Russell - Chairman

Swavesey Festival 100 Club

Three winners each month receive £60 or £30 or £15.
To take part in this popular competition phone
Gill Hurst 01954 200470. Latest winners are;

	£	November 2020	December 2020
First prize	60	Martin Dobinson	Deborah Walker
Second prize	30	Margaret Guest	Ena Keerie
Third prize	15	Gary Peet	Sue Tait

Swavesey W. I.

By the time you read this, we hope to be very close to having our first meeting in the Memorial Hall since last March. It would be a good time for any women of the village to pop in and see what goes on! It will be very informal, just a chance to catch up with each other after a year of no official meetings. We have managed walks and coffee on Market Street Green, Zoom meetings and activities organised by our National Federation, craft and chat, speakers, and quizzes. There is nothing better than just getting together though is there, and we do hope to see you.

Swavesey Memorial Hall 7.30 on March 8th

The W I is not all about meetings, speakers and chat. In January we will have voted towards the W I's next national campaign - this is a very important part of the W I, a chance to use our collective voice, and believe you me, we are listened to! Our past campaigns have covered issues such as more women on jury service, more women police officers, raising awareness of plastic pollution, fairtrade, more midwives and care not custody which called for an end to the inappropriate detention of people with mental health problems. This year we have the chance to vote on subjects as diverse as stopping the peat bogs, increasing awareness of the signs of ovarian cancer and racism and discrimination. Swavesey's vote is then sent to the NFWI and the resolution with the most votes nationally is then taken forward into an appropriate campaign. If you come to our March meeting you will find out what the women of Swavesey voted for this year. Meanwhile, we look forward to the spring and some kind of normality.

For more information please contact Linda Saunders 01954 201162 and see our noticeboard for updates.

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Swavesey Library is based in the Village College, its entrance can be found by following the library signs from the Village College front car park.

A VIRTUAL SUCCESS

Who would ever have believed how successful meeting on Zoom would be for a friendly club like ours? Yes, it will be great when these scary times are over and we can meet face to face once again, but, especially at this time of year, there are distinct advantages in taking part from the comfort of ones own home. No more struggling to the College through rain/ snow/sleet/ice/puddles, sitting there damp from the knees down, steaming gently, then doing the same on the way home in the dark. All you need is a gentle stroll from the kitchen to your computer, mug of coffee/ glass of wine in hand, and there are all your old friends , all full of news. Conversations are most entertaining, as they involve everyone rather than a chosen few. Normally there is only time to catch up with a couple of favourite friends, now we are all on screen together, so one can chat with members you previously knew only casually, which must make our club even friendlier than before.

We are no longer limited by distance, so we can join another club many miles away, share a talk or a competition with the speaker or judge even further away. We have been entertained by excellent presentations from places as far away as Ireland and Georgia. There seem to be endless opportunities, so while we are in physical lockdown we can travel the world. It might be good to continue having some similar meetings in the future, rather than having to stick to those who live within our local area.

Of course, everything has a downside. In this case it is likely that at a time of Pandemic, few are prepared to commit themselves too far ahead. If you look at our website, you will see that in spite of the stirling efforts of our Programme Secretary, Ray, there are quite a few "To be confirmed". If you would like to join us at any time it is advisable to check our website regularly, and if anything takes your fancy, press on Contact and that will give you up to date information and allow you to sign on for a mere £4 a session. We are always happy to share a club evening with guests, and quite a few have joined us for these excellent Zoom talks.

Meanwhile we can confirm that we have several confirmed dates. We have several competitions to come, which work well on Zoom. On 25th Feb. we have the prestigious Bamber Trophy, for a set of five DPIs showing a wide range of topics and techniques. On 11th March there should be the Joe Sipos Trophy for colour prints, but this presents several tactical problems, and there seems no safe way to get prints to a judge in this risky time. As a compromise, it has been decided by EGM that for this year only, the images can be submitted digitally. Everyone realises that actual prints are judged by choice of paper and mounts, not just the quality of the image, but that seems the safest option at this difficult time. We have a friendly competition with St Neots on 30th March (note Tuesday). Usually only a few of us can make the trip in the evening to support our members. Now we can all turn up.

We have three confirmed speakers, one on the 4th Feb., Ian Wilson with " Putting together a RPS Distinction panel", and on 11th March we have Dave Mason's "Afterlife". David Clapp will present "Professional Landscape Photography with a twist" on 25th March. The rwo Lucky dips are on 4th Feb. and 11th March, so keep your eye on our website.

In this edition, on the back cover, you will find early information about our 2021 Exhibition, (sorry, digital again so no cake) which we hope you will enjoy but at least it won't matter if it snows this time. Meanwhile join us any evening, you are always welcome.

Mo Hadfield
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An update from Fen Drayton Lakes

Reedbed Management

With its many peninsulas and islands, Elney Lake is our largest area of reed and therefore one of our more important areas for target breeding species including marsh harrier and bittern. Keeping it in the best possible condition for these species to successfully nest requires a lot of work and we have recently been going out to the islands to remove the willow trees that take root in amongst the reed.

Looking out at Elney Lake from one of the viewpoints you may notice that the majority of the islands on the western side of the lake are dominated by large trees with very little reed and larger expanses of water between them. The eastern side is very different with reed dominating the islands and filling the channels between. If left, willow trees would gradually spread to the eastern side, drying out the channels and shading out the reed so that, in time, it would develop into a wet woodland and look very different, forcing the reedbed specialist species to move off the reserve.

To keep the willow in check and maintain the reed, each winter we head out in the boat to get onto target islands with our team of volunteers. Hand tools are used to cut new willow growth while chainsaws are used for anything larger that has been left too long. Willow grows remarkably fast so trees just two or three years old can already be large enough to require mechanical felling. After being cut, we treat each stump with a herbicide to prevent the tree from regenerating and sending up any new shoots.

Bearded tits can be seen in the winter flying low over the reed on Elney Lake.
Photo credit: Dave Ward

Willow cutting work on Elney Lake is done in rotation and we have made good progress this winter, clearing four of the islands and part of the northern peninsula on Elney Lake. Reed will quickly recolonise these areas, providing more habitat for some fantastic species and we will be back next winter to target islands and other areas that we did not get to this year.

Events

Under current circumstances, we are not running any events at present.

Email: fendraytonlakes@rspb.org.uk
Phone: 01954 233260

Visit **rspb.org.uk/fendraytonlakes**

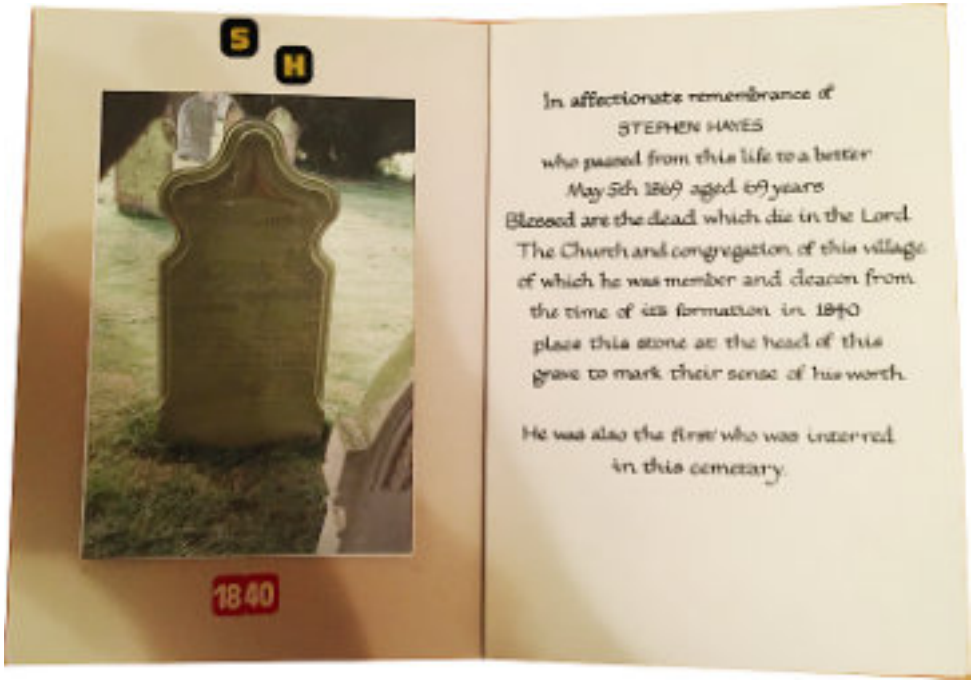
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) is a registered charity: England and Wales no. 207076, Scotland no. SC037654

MISCELLANY

Swavesey Cemetery

The late 1860's were exciting times for the Swavesey Nonconformists. They built the Bethel Chapel in 1868 and the Strict Baptist Chapel in 1869 and in that same year the two congregations decided it was time to have their own burial ground. The graveyard around the former Strict Baptist Chapel in Boxworth End was full and neither of the new Chapels had spare ground for burials.

Brothers Jonas and John Thorp had a small grass field of about one and a quarter acres called Hale Field Close, which they put up for auction. Fourteen men, lead by Thomas Watson Carter, from the nonconformist chapels (this group became the first trustees) managed to buy the field for £165. Was there any significance in buying this piece of land situated in the area of the village known as "Amen Corner" ? The place where it is believed the early dissenters said their final "Amens" after worshipping at Gospel Hill farther down Mow Fen Drove.


S
H
1840
In affectionate remembrance of
STEPHEN HAYES
who passed from this life to a better
May 5th 1869 aged 69 years
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord
The Church and congregation of this village
of which he was member and deacon from
the time of its formation in 1840
place this stone at the head of this
grave to mark their sense of his worth
He was also the first who was interred
in this cemetary

The first to be buried in the new Cemetery was Steven Hayes in 1869. The Bethel Baptists had met at his cottage until their first chapel was built in 1840.

It would appear that Mr T Prior put up the money for the field to be bought, because in 1902 the Cemetery Committee met to discuss the "long standing debt of £200 of which the lender (Mr. T. Prior) had no security". Evidently Mr. T Prior was quite elderly by now as his son Mr. B. Prior, who was actually chairman of the meeting, agreed to accept whatever could be raised by public subscription and settled for about £175.

Only the basic details are written in the Record of Burials but it does sometimes paint a grim picture of the lives of some villagers. In the 1870's seven members of the Crisp family died including three babies aged nine months or less. In that same decade the Bridgefords lost eight children, the oldest six years, the youngest one month. Their Christian names are not recorded.

The years pass with very little for the trustees to do except raise enough money to pay the sexton whose job was to keep the cemetery tidy and dig the graves. Even the first world war did not upset the regular tempo of their quarterly meetings. That is until 1932. Evidently funeral services were held either in the deceased's home or around the grave. The former had limitations of space; the latter meant sometimes dealing with inclement weather. The solution was to build a small Chapel. Having inspected the Chapel in Over Cemetery the building committee decided on a building that could accommodate fifty people and the contract was given to Mr. Peters who completed the work for One hundred and thirty-four pounds, twelve shillings and threepence. This included seating and a lectern. The problem with the Chapel was that as it was used so infrequently, when a funeral was imminent somebody had to spend considerable time and effort in getting it cleaned up, and anyway there was no heating; so in the winter, although dry, it was still quite cold. It was last used in 1960. Mourners preferring to have a service in either of the village Chapels followed by a brief time spent around the grave.

During and after the second world war, trustees' meetings became less frequent and it was becoming much more difficult to find someone to keep the cemetery tidy. A meeting in May 1966 achieved quite a lot in terms of improving the Trust's financial situation and in finding a better way to look after the Cemetery, but sadly the Trustees did not meet again for eighteen years. The chairman, Mr John Kerley snr. became so concerned that he decided to put the affairs of the Trust back in order. More Trustees were elected to achieve a full complement of fourteen, and a chairman, secretary and treasurer appointed who could liaise quickly to deal with Cemetery business, and keep it's affairs in order for nearly forty years.

A Glance at the Past in February and March

From the Cambridge Chronicle

1803, 19 Mar. Susannah Anderson, Sale of her Farm. Auction sale for ready money on 31 March & next day on the premises of Susannah Anderson who is leaving her farm. Live & Dead Stock, Implements of husbandry, dairying & brewing utensils. 5 draught horses & mares, 6 cows in full profit, 2 springing cows, 1 springing heifer, a 2 year old bull, 1 yearling do & cow bud, 7 score sheep such as 40 couples, 30 lanbhogs, 50 two shear withers, 10 shearhog with 10 guest ewes etc. 5 dungcarts, 1 chaise cart, shaft roll, horse harness, ploughs & harrows. The Dairy & Brewing Utensils consist of a barrel churn,& frame, 2 milk leads, barrels & tubs etc.

1850, 16 Mar. Benefit Society. Considerable excitement prevailed in the village last week in consequence of the first Meeting of the Club after the decision of the magistrate in the David Thulbourn case. Having first been refused, the poor man's friends forced a show of hands and it was resolved he should be paid his money by a majority of 16 to 12. Some of the Officers still refused so funds were raised to take the matter to the Queen's Bench. Subsequently the ruling went in favour of David Thulbourn.

1851, 8 Feb. Daring Burglary. On Wednesday morning last about two o'clock a daring burglary was committed at the residence of the Misses Cole of Swavesey. It appears that at the time mentioned above, one of the ladies thinking she heard a noise proceeded downstairs but could discover nothing and returned to bed. Soon after this however she was again alarmed and proceeded downstairs again when she was met at the bottom by three men who told her that if she did not go to bed again, they would murder her. She complied and was followed by one of them who took her pocket from under the pillow containing about £20 in money besides a half dozen spoons. No clues have been obtained lately to lead to their detection. An entrance was effected through a window.

**** 1863, 14 Mar. Royal Wedding**. The village was the only one in the neighbouring area which did not participate in the festivities.

**** 1863, 21 Mar. Prince of Wales Marriage**. Apology for incorrect report last week. Although there was no general demonstration, Mr Dodson and Mr Cole, with Mr Carter and others, gave a tea and supper to the whole of the labourers and their families . Mr Long gave his men the means to enjoy themselves in Cambridge on the day.

1866, 10 Feb. Restoration of St Andrew's church. On Sunday 4th inst. notice was given by the Rev H.J. Sharpe that until further notice services would be held in the National Schoolrooms. The church is now in the hands of the builders.

1875, 20 Mar. Mr Thomas Mitham. At St Peter, Near Mountergate, Norwich during the course of an entertainment, a handsome timepiece was presented to Mr Mitham (formerly of Swavesey) for his valuable services to the choir and parish over the past ten years.

1880, 21 Feb. Fire in Barn. Occupied by Mr J Wilkin, belonging to Mr C Coulson. The fire quickly spread to a large shed and some stacks of bean & wheat straw. Mr Williams, superintendent of the Fire Brigade, also Messrs Payne and Crisp attacked the blaze and extinguished it.

1889, 8 Mar. Jubilee Celebrations. The Church Ringers were entertained to a super at the Swan Inn on Saturday last by Mr G Long to commemorate his 50th birthday. He also gave to 24 widows and widowers a cwt of coal and a shilling, and to his cottage tenants a ***cwt of coal.

1895, 1 Mar. For Sale. The Brooklands, Swavesey, a Freehold residence standing in own grounds, with a well-stocked garden, outbuildings, cottage, (used as a butcher's shop) with a plot of land about 1 acre, the whole situate near the railway station.

*** Editor's note: Princess Alexandra of Denmark married Albert Edward, Prince of Wales on 10 March 1863 in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.*

**** Note, cwt is one hundredweight = 50.8kg*

Bike Ride

Summer 2021 is rapidly approaching and that means our ride through the Pyrenees is drawing ever closer. For those of you who don't know, we will be riding 660km through the Pyrenees to raise money for Alzheimer's Research UK in memory of our late Grandpa, Colin.

As you read this update, our Winter training has drawn to an end. We've been mostly riding indoors, focussing on improving our power output - the more power we can exert, the easier the long Pyrenean climbs will be! We've also been working hard to shave off the Christmas pounds we put on so that our legs don't have to pedal that extra helping of Christmas pudding around the ride.

As the weather gets better, we look forward to getting back to riding outside and seeing some of the effort put in over the winter reap some rewards out on the road!

We'd like to say a special thank you to the team at the Meridian for their continued support throughout this tough time, and appreciate their revised donation of £500. The last year has been a tough one for everyone and the support that they are able to give is invaluable to us.

Kind regards,
Alex, Luke and Calum

Where I Grew Up. Part 1 – Mainly about my Parents

I was born in 1937 at Wisbech. At the beginning of the Second World War Coventry was an industrial city and my father was soon drafted there to work in the Rootes aircraft factory. There were 17 air raids on Coventry between August and October 1940 during which around 200 tons of bombs fell and 176 people were killed. The raid on the night of 14 November 1940 was the single most concentrated attack on a British city in WW2. Whilst cycling back to his digs on a dark night my father hit a verge and broke his ankle and was taken to hospital. He died when the hospital was bombed.

Although I was very young, I can remember visiting the farm where Dad had his lodgings at the time and also again after the war ended. I have a few memories, including being hauled out of the larder by the scruff of the neck for pinching crackling from a piece of pork in the meat safe. Crackling has always been a weakness of mine! Fetching water for the milk cooler from a spring in the village, picking up shrapnel in the grass fields and pushing turnips out of a hole in the trailer to feed the cows and the cat being sprayed with milk as the cows were milked by hand.

I remember going through Coventry when I was only about four or five and I have this clear vision of a road with a line of heaped brick rubble on one side and on the other a row of shops made from corrugated tin. I also remember seeing barrage balloons which I thought were not very high, but perhaps they were wound down during the day or in strong winds. I have never known whether they were very successful or not. Then back in Wisbech I was at my grandparent's house when we heard a strange noise and, rushing outside, there was a doodle bug with the engine roaring away and the flame coming out of the back - I can see it now. We stood and listened and after a short time the engine stopped. I never did know where it landed, but I have a feeling it may have been a little off course, having been aimed for the railway marshalling yards in March, which for many years were the largest in Europe

Perhaps thirty years ago now, I took my wife to Coventry to see the mass grave where my father was buried and then to go and see who lived at the farm I knew, wondering if the same family, the Stidworthys, still existed. From where the entrance drive had been all we could see was a large gravel works, no house, no buildings, no duck pond. How very sad it all felt, it was as though a part of my life had just disappeared.

When I was young, I always wanted to be a farmer but of course that was not possible. However, I did have the opportunity (although I did not know

until many years later) of a scholarship to Gresham's School at Holt in Norfolk when I passed my 11 plus exam. Mother was having to care for me on her own of course and I suppose she did not want to lose me and perhaps 'that was a little beyond our station'. It would have been very difficult for her but if I had gone to Gresham's I may have found a way into farming. All fantasy now!

Gradually my mother became less well with a heart condition. In 1952 she went to Papworth Hospital for assessment, where I visited her, then to a hospital in Leicester where she had very risky heart surgery. This was successful and Mother had about 18 years of pretty good health. The time came for another operation, but at the Brompton Hospital in London. Despite being performed by a young Professor Magdi Yacoub, who would become very famous, it failed and mother died at 56 yrs. I now feel rather proud of my mother for what she went through and what she did for me.

David Carrington, Whitton Close

Where I was brought up
by Neville Tait

I was born in Dilston Hall on the banks of the River Tyne in Northumberland in the early 1940s. I know that sounds very grand, but the truth is that Dilston Hall was being used as a temporary Maternity Hospital during the 2nd World War. At the time of my birth my mother was living a few miles west of Newcastle in Orchard Terrace in Throckley, a small, terraced house with an outside toilet, known locally as a 'netty'. My father was currently serving as ground crew in the RAF in East Africa having been posted there a few months previously.

My maternal grandparents also lived in Throckley in a street of terraced houses called The Leazes. Mum's father was a blacksmith who looked after the pit ponies in the nearby Newburn Pit. I have vague memories of the house. It had a large iron range in the rather dark kitchen, a wash tub and an outside toilet in the back yard and an air raid shelter in the front garden. Dad's mother, who was a war widow from the 1st World War, also lived in Throckley. My Grandfather Tait had been a coalminer, before being killed in action in Gallipoli in 1915.

I was three years old before I met my Dad on his demobilisation from the RAF. I recall catching a bus with my Mum from Throckley to Newcastle Central Station where I met this strange man in an RAF Uniform. He was bearing a gift for me in his hand. It was a strange round orange thing. My first sight of an Orange!

On his return from East Africa, Dad returned to his former job with Northumberland County Council in Newcastle. On reaching 5 years old I started at Throckley Primary School. After no more than two weeks, however, my parents were allocated a brand new council house in West Denton, about 3 miles closer to Newcastle and I had to change schools to Wallbottle Primary School, which was coincidentally the village where Dad had lived as a youngster and where he had received his primary education. The trip to school entailed a 10-minute ride each way on the School Bus. I thrived at the school and in due course took and passed my 11 plus and followed in my father's footsteps to Lemington Grammar School. There I was taught by some of the very same teachers who had taught my father all those years ago. I particularly remember the Headmaster, Mr. Farquhar, who always wore his long black graduate gown.

About three years later Dad was promoted to a job with the County Council in Blyth so we moved there to make the daily commute easier for him and I transferred to Blyth Grammar School. When I lived there, Blyth was a thriving Coal Mining and Ship Building Port.

After a difficult start at Blyth Grammar, (thirteen is not a good age to move home and school mid year), I got into my stride, made some good friends, gained in confidence and found myself at the top of the class lists. I became Head Boy, was awarded a State Scholarship on the strength of my A Level results and gained a place at Cambridge University, only the third person from the school to go to either Cambridge or Oxford.

While at Cambridge I met my now wife, then in the sixth form at Cambridge Grammar School for Girls (now Parkside Community College). Little did we suspect then, that 2020 would be our 53rd wedding anniversary and our 43rd happy year living in Swavesey!

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AGRICULTURE IN MEDIEVAL SWAVESEY Part 4

More notes about Medieval Swavesey from Dorothy Bamber.

In Medieval times it was a struggle just to exist, borderline starvation was common. People would starve if the harvest was poor.

DIVISION OF LAND

The Lord would have his own land (demesne land), a park, a pond and a piece of forest.

Freemen would hold up to 30 acres – 30 separate strips and pay rent to the Lord.

Socmen or yeomen paid a fixed rent or gave services.

VIlleins or copy holders would hold, on average, 30 acres.

Cottars or small copy holders would have an average of 5 acres.

Bondsmen were serfs and held no land.

Then there was common land where the villagers could collect firewood, wattles, nuts from hazel and beech and graze their animals.

For growing crops there were three large open fields, (Longstanton Field, Lolworth field and Fen Drayton Field), no hedges just wattle fencing to keep animals out of the growing crops. These fields were divided into strips. Each family had strips in each field so that good and poor land was fairly divided. It was wasteful from the point of view of time moving from one strip to another but it was fair. The Reeve was in charge of allocating the strips. Each man brought what he could, perhaps an ox.

The strips would be about 180 metres long which equalled the distance oxen could go without stopping. As a plough was clumsy and heavy, less turning the better.

By the end of the Medieval Ages ploughs were mounted on wheels and so easier to move and needed two instead of four oxen.

THE THREE FIELD SYSTEM

Year 1 – a winter crop of rye, wheat and peas.

a spring crop of barley, oats or beans.

Fallow- animals would graze in this field and so fertilise the ground.

These would be rotated so that one field would always be at rest.

FEUDAL DUTIES

Freemen – perhaps they only paid rent to the Lord, usually corn or flour, e.g. the yeomen.

Some freemen, villeins, cottars and all copy holders did additional service. Some had to go to the reeve and work for a day or two each week and also work on the Lord's demesne land, especially at harvest time and haymaking.

Serfs worked where they could.

Rent e.g., one family had to supply the manor with a certain amount of honey each year. Another family would supply so many eggs every year and yet another would supply beef or mutton and so on.

This all changed after the Black Death in 1348-1349.This led to fewer peasants to work and they successfully negotiated lower rents and demanded more rights.

WORKING IN THE FIELDS

Spring – all the villagers came out to plough. On heavy land 8-10-12 -oxen could be used. In sandy soil horses may have pulled the plough. The furrows were rarely straight because the ploughs were inefficient. The villagers broke up the clods with hammers and mallets.

Sowing was done by broadcasting the seed and then followed by a harrow pulled again by oxen.

Boys were used to scare birds.

The main crops grown were wheat, barley, peas, beans, cabbages, and leeks.

Summer – Everyone helped at harvest time when the Reeve supervised the gathering in of hay and corn which were stored in the Lord's barn. Hay was cut in early summer from the fallow fields by the men using long handled scythes or short handled sickles. The women and girls would place it in heaps. It was put in the Lord's barn when dry.

The men also reaped the corn using sickles and the women and older children made sheaves.

Food and drink would be taken to the fields during the day. Work may have taken place on Sundays because the harvest was so important as they were totally dependent on what they could grow and store. The priest allowed this because it was so important for survival.

Threshing and flailing to separate the seeds from the stalks was done using a long wooden flail.

Winnowing to leave only the seed and get rid of the chaff was done by throwing the seeds into the air. The corn would then be taken to the miller to be ground into flour ready for producing bread.

The people had to pay the Lord of the Manor (who owned the mill) to have the corn ground.

If, at any time, cattle broke into the fields where crops were growing the owner of the cattle would be punished.

Winter – This section brings together some facts about winter which I have mentioned in other articles.

Winter when food was scarce, meals would consist of salted meat, bacon and fish. If the wheat ran out bread was made with rye, oats, peas and beans. It could be a time of great hardship and near starvation.

In 1277-1278 and in 1340 prolonged droughts throughout Cambridgeshire devastated most of the Lent cereals, peas and beans in many parishes. As a result, hundreds of peasants were threatened with starvation.

Each village relied on what it produced, poor harvests meant worries about food.

Would the family starve?

Just as we have they had worries too – survival.

A Brief Pageant of English Verse

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow,
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

A poem by an unknown author to reflect the current situation with Covid-19.
There are many extracts from famous works including:-
Yeats, Masefield, Wordsworth, J. Milton Hayes, Kipling, Traditional, Chesterton, Housman, Keats, Shakespeare & Burns

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Taming the Flood

River Ouse in full flood
by Simon Shore

Following heavy rain locally on 23 and 26 December 2020, many Swavesey residents have expressed concern about Swavesey's flood risk.

A Swavesey Flood Plan, intended to harness the village's community resilience to the risk and impacts of flooding, is currently under preparation and an early draft was placed on the Parish Council website on 26 December. Additionally, the headline policy within Swavesey's draft Neighbourhood Plan deals with surface water, drainage and flood risk.

It is well worth taking a look on YouTube at https://youtu.be/WgbcvXseCzk where an excellent DVD entitled "Taming the Flood" vividly reports what happens in and around Swavesey during times of high flood risk.

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Surrounded by Water – Almost

Part 2. The 1947 Floods. The Struggle Against Weather and Water

The cause of the exceptional flood was the great depth of snow which had accumulated between the start of the big freeze on 23 January and the big thaw on 10 March.

On the evening of Sunday 16th March 1947 in the East Anglian Fens, storm-force wind blew the river water over the tops of the riverbanks in sheets of ice-cold spray. Men could only stay up on the banks by clinging to fences or the occasional small bush. Lorries tried to move sacks of clay to where banks needed reinforcing, but roads were blocked by fallen trees. The turbulent, darkened water hindered movement of clay by tugs and barges and the swollen rivers made it difficult for them to pass under some bridges. Communication with the control room in Ely was almost impossible because the gale blew down the telephone wires.

A four mile stretch of the river Great Ouse ran north from Covell's Bridge Sluice at the north western end of Swavesey Parish, past two public houses, The Pike and Eel and The Boat, which was adjacent to Brownshill Staunch in Over Fen, to as far as Hermitage Marina.at Earith. Since midday on that Sunday two gangs of workmen, each assisted by German prisoners of war, some fifty men in all, had been working strenuously along this bank, strengthening the places where waves were over-topping. They filled sacks with soil from the fen below then two men dragged each sack to the top of the steep slope some 6 metres higher up. The slippery bank was washed ankle deep in water being blown over by the storm. It was bitterly cold. The noise of the water and wind was thunderous. On top of the bank a man could hold himself still only by great effort and could move forward only by staggering bent nearly double. By 6 p.m. they had already held back the flood by stopping three threatened breaches, but they were barely holding their own because by now water was spilling over the bank here and there along the 4 miles. Just as darkness fell one man set out against the wind to move from one gang to the other. On the way he came upon a wire fence with a wooden stile crossing the bank where he noticed a serious breach was starting, with water already pouring through. He rushed to summon both gangs of workers to deal with the breach which was a short distance north of The Boat public house at Brownshill Staunch.

A young farmer who had served in the Navy during the war volunteered to be on top at the front to place in position the bags of soil the others brought to him. He had to cling onto the stile to avoid being swept over by the force of the wind and water. Conditions were so severe that supplying one man at the top was all the entire team could manage. They lit hurricane lamps to help in the darkness, but these were repeatedly blown out by the gale. One of the men tried to get news through to the command centre at Ely to summon urgent help but he failed because telephone lines were down, and roads were blocked. As if in defiance of the storm-force wind there were stars in the sky and the man at the top remembered afterwards glancing up briefly and recognising familiar constellations as he had so often done during his years at sea. By just after 9 p.m. the whole gang were wet, muddy, extremely cold and completely exhausted and whereas they had

successfully built a strong wall of bags across the centre of the breach, water was still flowing past both ends. Then they noticed another small breach was starting a few metres downstream and there might have been many more such small breaches along the 4 miles for all they knew. This is when they realised that they could not win.

Nobody was there when the massive burst actually occurred but on the other side of the river on the southern edge of Bluntisham villagers living adjacent to the flood plain were watching the water slowly rise inside their houses when, just before midnight, the level rapidly dropped a few cm. They correctly deduced that a major breach had occurred nearby. At the wire fence and wooden stile, the water was roaring through the darkness to the fen below and this was the start of the widest breach and the most serious flooding of the East Anglian Fens. Across the Fens, other serious breaches occurred on the river Wissey to the west of Hilgay and on the river Little Ouse to the west of Lakenheath and on the river Welland, to the north of Crowland but the biggest and most catastrophic breach, leading to the largest area of flooded agricultural land, occurred in Over Fen.

Looking towards Swavesey. River water rushes from right to left through the breach, down into Over Fen then far beyond.

For more dramatic pictures of the floods that help to illustrate this article, look at our website www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk and under "Feature Articles" click on The 1947 Floods. These were kindly supplied by John Shepperson BEM. The next instalment describes how the breach was repaired and the local Fens were reclaimed.

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough ageUK

Swavesey Community Warden Scheme

Are you aged 60 or over?
Would you like help to continue to live independently in your own home?
The Community Warden is able to offer assistance by providing a daily phone call (Mon-Fri) and support such as:

- **Making drinks and a light meal**
- **A home visit**
- **Collecting prescriptions**
- **Small items of shopping**
- **A listening ear**
- **Help with paperwork and making appointments**
- **Signposting to other services where appropriate**

If you are interested in this service and would like more information, please call Tracey Booth on **07436102736**

There is a **FREE** 2 week trail and then a small weekly fee afterwards if you wish to remain on the scheme.

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If you, a family member or friend have used a local health or care service, Healthwatch Cambridgeshire wants to hear about your experience – good or bad.

We're the local health and care champions. And by sharing your feedback with us, local NHS and care services can find out what's working well or needs improving.

Please support our new campaign 'Because We All Care' by giving your feedback about the services you are using.

It's being run with the Care Quality Commission and follows on from our big Covid-19 survey across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough earlier this year.

It only takes a few minutes to share your views with us. And you feedback helps services to continue providing the right support to local people.

Share your views online at www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/share-your-views You can also call Healthwatch on 0330 355 1285, text your views on 0752 0635 176 or email enquiries@healthwatchcambspboro.co.uk

OWLS Community Car Scheme

In December 2020 OWLS Community Car Scheme resumed a full service to the residents of Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey. Wait and return journeys to hospital were back (subject to driver availability) and non medical journeys to the hairdresser, bank and local shopping etc returned.

With limited face to face GP and hospital appointments being offered there has been a reduction in the demand for OWLS journeys. Do you know someone elderly or vulnerable who does not have access to a car, is unable to use public transport or does not have someone who can take them to appointments or on necessary journeys?. Customers pay 30p a mile for a return trip to and from the drivers home, with a minimum charge of £3.

All our drivers and coordinators are volunteers and live in Over, Willingham, Longstanton and Swavesey. Drivers have all been DBS checked and there are strict Covid PPE procedures in place to protect drivers and customers.

For further details or to book a journey please ring the scheme's mobile number: 07505 254363 between 9am and 4pm Monday – Friday. If you reach the ansaphone please leave a clear message including your telephone number and the coordinator will ring you back.

Doctors Surgeries

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Information & updates on facebook page

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Website:- www.oversurgery.nhs.uk
Information & updates on facebook page

Longstanton
(01954) 207600
Out of hours 111
Website:-
www.willinghammedicalpractice.nhs.uk

Bar Hill Surgery
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Out of hours (01954) 780442 -
call will automatically be diverted
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See our website at www.swaveseymeridian.org.uk for the full and latest surgery newsletters. Ed

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SCHOOLS INFORMATION

Swavesey Primary School Early Years and Playwork Centre

Wraparound Care and Early Years Provision – Mon to Fri – term-time

Registration Fee £15 per family for using Breakfast and/or After School Club
Breakfast Club 7.30 am – 8.55 am
3+ year olds to Year 6 children: £6 per child per session
After School Club 3.15 pm to 6.00 pm
For Reception to Year 6 children: £10 per child, family rate £9 per child

Early Years 9.00 am to 3.00 pm (full day) or morning (9-12/1) or afternoon (12-3)
For 2 ½ year olds to 4 year olds
Places for funded children up to 30 hours per week
Charged sessions:-
3+ year olds £13 half-day and £26 full-day
2 year olds £15 half-day and £30 full-day
£4.50 for lunch hour (12-1)

For more information and to register:-
https://www.swavesey.cambs.sch.uk/page/?title=EY+%26amp%3B+P&pid=59

Swavesey Playtimers

Tuesday 10-11.30am
In the back room of the Bethel Church, different craft activities, stories and themes each week. £2

Wednesday 10-12noon
At the Memorial Hall, singing with Sharon from 11.15am.
Family with one child, £3.
More than one child, £4.
Under 6 months. £2.

All children under 5 welcome to these term-time toddler groups. Find out what is going on from our Facebook group – "Swavesey playgroups".
A great chance to meet local parents.

Swavesey Music School

9am – 10am	Sing Up	choir	4yrs – 12yrs
10am – 11am	Rockin' Rhythms I	interactive theory lessons	4yrs – 7yrs
	Rockin' Rhythms II		8+yrs
	Rockin' Rhythms III		Grade 3+
NEW CLASS!	Rock School Rockets	guitars, drums	beginners
11am – 12pm	SMS Community Orchestra	instrumental ensemble	all levels; all ages
	Rock School	guitars, drums, vocals	9+yrs

Now in its 9th. Year!

Check out our new class: RS Rockets
Also, SMS Community Orchestra, open to all ages; adults, parents: why not pick up that instrument from youth and join us on a Saturday morning? Email for more information and to check availability.

£4 per session!

Swavesey Music School
Swavesey Village College
Gibraltar Lane
Swavesey
CB24 4RS

http://swaveseyms.co.uk/

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Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers.

Girlguiding in Swavesey continues to hold meetings virtually every week during term time, according to the guidance from Girlguiding and the National Youth Agency.

Rainbows: We had a session on Remembrance and discovered one way to remember things is by regularly thinking about them or being taught about what happened several times. The girls cut out red poppies and made a poppy field with them. The following week they 'mapped the village' thinking about the things that are important to them in Swavesey and Kate has written to our MP on their behalf for UK Parliament Week. They also voted for a badge they'd like to work on next term. We had fun with reindeer crafts and games as we worked on the Reindeer Challenge badge just before Christmas. Our eight new Rainbows made their promise on Zoom and I magically passed their promise badge through my computer screen into their houses!

Brownies: During the second half of the autumn term, we held our first online Promise ceremony. We took part in UK Parliament week for the first time and found out a little about how our Parliament works. We did one challenge badge this half term - the Jarman Centre 12 Days of Christmas, and made crackers, gift tags, Christmas cards and two traditional Finnish Christmas decorations. We found out why robins, mistletoe and Yule logs play a part in our Christmas traditions.

Guides: Any plans we had to continue meeting face to face in the dark were put on hold as we went back into lockdown, so instead we learned some magic tricks and took part in UK Parliament Week and found out about women's suffrage. We worked on a Christmas challenge badge and made a wool elf, a pine cone santa, 3D Christmas cards, crackers, printed our own Christmas wrapping paper, decorated a candle, learned to fold a serviette as a flower and made a fabric wreath. The best part of this challenge was baking and decorating a yule log, making Christmas bark (chocolate) and making hot chocolate.

Rangers: We continued using zoom to do craft activities, quizzes, and we focused particularly on learning about planning for and carrying out campaigns for a variety of issues. We finished the term by doing a Christmas challenge badge called The Greatest Snowman, which involved making marshmallow fudge, decorating biscuits, and doing a variety of Christmas themed crafts.

During the second half of the autumn term we awarded and socially-distanced-presented the following:

Brownies: Bronze award to Annabel, Silver award to Skylark and Annabel

Rangers: Bronze award to Erica

Congratulations to all!

Adult helpers are always welcome, please sign up here if you are interested or would like to know more. www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/

Rainbows and Brownies are full with waiting lists, sign your daughters up early for Rainbows, don't wait until she is 5 and her friends have started! www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus

1st Swavesey Scout Group

What a strange end to an unusual year, and I am sure we are not the only ones looking forward to a brighter and more social 2021!

Like so many activities this year, face-to-face scouting has been severely interrupted by the Covid pandemic, with only a handful of outdoor sessions occurring since the original lockdown in March. Both Cubs and Scouts have managed to go on night hikes between lockdowns.

Early on we took the tough decision to suspend all Beaver sessions until some normalcy had returned to our lives. The additional strain of virtual session on the parents of our youngest members was something we wanted to avoid. Beavers scouts is still currently suspended, and as uncertainty grows, we have no return date. Once we can return to having group sessions in the hut, we will let you know.

Scouts and Cubs have had some very successful online sessions. With both groups covering various aspects of badges, but also having fun sessions involving bingo and escape rooms! Members have also been doing independent badge work at home.

We hope everyone has been able to have an enjoyable (if smaller than planned) Christmas and a Happy New Year. The struggles of 2020 have shown us what a wonderful community we live in, with kindness and love being show in abundance. As a new year dawns, we are making plans for new sessions to keep our young people involved and growing, whether online or in person in the scout hut.

Scouts meet on a Monday evening and Cubs on a Tuesday evening. Both groups are oversubscribed and have waiting lists. If you are interested in enrolling your child or have any questions, please contact us using the email addresses below.

Beavers (ages 6-8) marian.bentley@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Cubs (ages 8-10½) steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Scouts (ages 10½ -14) jim.burling@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk

Swavesey Village College Adult Education

Please see our New Online Courses for 2021

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Rhythmic drumming, especially when accompanied by chanting & simple symbolic circle dance movements, has the power to calm, centre, lift depression, release anger and stress emotions, boost the immune system, enhance health and stress-resilience

Starts 2nd March 2021 4 weeks £52 Swavesey Village College

Taste of India

This course is designed especially for all those who love Indian food! In this course you will learn how to cook well known curries with 'chicken, lamb or fish' with the option of vegetarian ingredients too.

Starts 3rd March 4 weeks £52 at Swavesey Village College

When you visit Swavesey Village College Adult Education it may feel a little different from before, but our team will ensure that you have a safe experience whilst learning with us. Please see our website for more information on our COVID 19 procedures.

Please contact us on Tel: 01954 234488

View our new class programme for 2021 at

www.swaveseyvc.co.uk/community-education

Swavesey Village College

From Your DC - Sue Ellington

Dear All

Happy New Year. I hope the new year will bring us clearance of the COVID virus and back to the normal ups and downs of life. I am writing this 4 days before Christmas when we have just been told that the new strain is spreading more rapidly and we need to cancel many of our arrangements. But I think we have to recognise that some good things have come as a result of the virus. The village has pulled together, community spirit is wonderful, Thank you to Swavesey Together and all who have shown generosity, love and friendship at this time.

But the key issues for Swavesey at South Cambs District Council have not gone away - I continue in difficult circumstances to fight our corner and ensure Swavesey drainage, planning, housing and individual problems are addressed. So firstly drainage. The Swavesey Drainage Board and Parish Council continue to be concerned regarding the amount of foul water which is being sent from Northstowe and Cambourne to Uttons Drove sewage plant and after treatment being sent via the main drain around Swavesey to the river. The planning conditions in 2012 for Northstowe clearly state that Mere Fen bank needs to be repaired before housing can be inhabited. This has not been done but houses continue to be built. I have an outstanding question from November South Cambs District Council meeting as to whether Cambourne West development foul water is also planned to flow to Uttons Drove. I await a response. This issue could see Swavesey have a serious flooding problem so it needs an urgent solution.

You have often seen me talk about the issues surrounding the Byeways so I am happy to report some positive movement over the last 2 months. The Parish Council and I have put in a bid to the A14 legacy fund to help maintain the Byeways in the future. Some of you may have seen me surveying every Byeway with my pedometer to write a report on the current length, state and usage of all the Byeways. This has never been done before and has allowed us to discuss with South Cambs and the A14 staff suggestions for future maintenance which we will be putting to the Byeways Committee in January so I hope to have some good news to report in the April Meridian. I think we all agree that our Byeways are important to the hundreds of us who walk them in this pandemic and we need to ensure they remain accessible and fit for purpose.

I have spoken before about the liaison committee which I chair. This is a Zoom meeting of Representatives from South Cambs District Council, the Parish Council and representatives of the various construction sites in the village. We have held one meeting and a further one is planned for January to discuss issues which are causing residents concern. The January meeting will include an officer from Highways, to discuss the two new road junctions in Middlewatch as-well as Fen Drayton Road. Other issues of management, drainage, screening and responsibilities will help to ensure we suffer the minimum disturbance from the sites. We have decided to produce a Welcome pack for new residents and I am busy collecting information to include. When produced I hope we will be able to include it for every new resident whether on the new sites or not.

Well let's hope 2021 is a good year. Keep positive and safe . As always contact me if I can help

sue.ellington@virgin.net or 01954202923.

Best wishes

Sue Ellington - District Councillor for Swavesey, Fen Drayton and Lolworth.

SWAVESEY PARISH

Parish Council News November December 2020

COUNTY COUNCIL
Highways maintenance by the Highways dept. is underway:

Drains in Ramper Road have been jetted and cover levels checked and marked to be repaired.

Gullies and drains within the village have been jetted and cleared. Further work is planned.

The Local Highways Improvement work is underway to resurface sections of the Boxworth End footpaths. The Clerk is following up reports of necessary footpath and highway repairs in Gibraltar Lane, the Carters Way/ Priory Avenue area and Taylors Lane.

The Carters Way/Priory Avenue footpaths are to be resurfaced before the end of the financial year.

Cars are parking either side of the bollards in Chantry Close/Moat Way. The County Council are to erect adjacent no parking signs as this is an emergency access route.

The County Council is considering a policy for HGV's and local roads. You can contribute, consult the Parish Council website for the latest information.

The PC considered a request to dim street lights to save energy. When the street lights were renewed the numbers were reduced. The PC agreed not to reduce the lighting further. Residents can ask for shields if the lights are directly affecting them.

The County Council is part of a new initiative concerning road safety called 'The Vision Zero Initiative' The PC asked our County Councillor to include safety measures for consideration in Ramper Road and Boxworth End.

DISTRICT COUNCIL
The Swavesey Together Group continues to support the provision of lunches for school children and those in need of Covid help over holiday periods.

The Clerk and District Cllr Mrs Ellington are in discussion with the A14 Team managing the A14 Legacy Fund to find the best way to support the maintenance of the village bye-ways. The PC continues to consider ways to fund and manage their maintenance in future.

DRAINAGE
Cllr Mr Wilderspin is working with the Middle Level Commissioners and continues to press for action on major drainage works affecting the village.

COUNCIL NEWS

The PC is working to improve the telemetry link between the Bloor Homes development andthe Swavesey Drain to manage surface water from the site when river levels are high.

Cllr Mrs Ellington has raised the concerns of the PC about future developments in Cambourne and elsewhere where drainage will come through the Swavesey system, at a full meeting of SCDC. The water quality of the outflow from the Uttons Drove sewage works is also a concern.

PLANNING
The PC considered a number of planning applications

The PC is to allow limited parking by contractors' vehicles on the land owned by the PC and designated for recreation by Matthew Homes Ltd. who are building the 30 homes off Boxworth End.

Work has started to protect the listed cottage at 37 Market Street prior to refurbishing it and building two additional houses. The PC is pressing the planners and developers to carry out the works ASAP on this neglected site and to do so with care for Market Street Green and the local environment.

Planning permission has been granted for two new cottages to the rear of the Almshouses at Frere Cottages off Swan Pond in Station Road, to add to affordable housing provision in the village.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
Speed watch volunteers are urgently needed especially as many residents are concerned about speeding vehicles.

VILLAGE MATTERS
The PC agreed that the information kiosk at the Memorial Garden could be opened, but that the one on the green should remain shut as shared books etc were still a Covid risk. Swavesey library remains open every Saturday morning in the Village College, for those who have ordered books to collect or return to the library service.

A Christmas Tree recycling point on the green was approved, as took place last year. Dellar Tree Surgery will publish more information on when to take trees there after Christmas.

The PC is to set up a project management group in the new year to take forward the development of the new sports field between the Village College and the Matthew Homes development, this will be linked to the adjacent proposed 3G sports pitch on the College site which the PC is supporting.

Swavesey Parish Council
Website:- www.swavesey.org.uk

Parish Councillors	Telephone	E-mail address
Warren Wright (Chairman)	203172	will.wright48@virginmedia.com
John Pook (Vice-Chairman)	230978	pookjhn@aol.com
Martin Johnston	200605	martin.johnston1@ntlworld.com
Lisa Boyes	232603	windmillkennels@oneservice.co.uk
James Dodson	230560	shirleydodson65@gmail.com
Stuart Faben	07887 906982	stuart@fabenjoinery.com
Hannah Parish	203035	hannah.parish@niab.com
Colin Parsons	230861	colin@trinityengineeringltd.co.uk
Sandie Smith	232356	cambridgegills@hotmail.co.uk
Keith Wilderspin	230083	keith.wilderspin@btinternet.com
Doug Hunt	232478	doughuntuk@yahoo.co.uk
Clerk: Linda Miller	202982	clerk@swavesey.org.uk
District Councillor: Sue Ellington	202923	cllr.ellington@scambs.gov.uk
County Councillor: Mandy Smith Papworth & Swavesey Ward	230248	mandy.smith@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Memorial Hall Administrator: Nicole Mullee	07963 861791	memorialhall@swavesey.org.uk

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Tel: 01954 250830
Mob: 07836 654252
Email: ben@bclandcrafts.co.uk
Web: www.bclandcrafts.co.uk

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St Andrews Message from Rev'd Lucy Cleland

Snowdrops are often considered to be a sign that Spring is on its way. In fact, we may have already noticed a few before this edition of the Meridian magazine arrives in our homes at the start of February. When I lived in Cambridge and then Waterbeach, I used to make a pilgrimage to Anglesey Abbey at this time of year. Perhaps this is also a habit of yours just as it is for many National Trust members. As a child, I enjoyed the snowdrops in the Surrey and Hampshire woodlands. Blankets of snowdrops adorned Sherwood Forest and churchyards across Nottinghamshire where I served as Bishop's Chaplain. For the last 3 years, I admired their beauty on my walks through the Scargill Estate in Yorkshire.

I have heard already of the stunning snowdrop displays in St Andrew's churchyard, Swavesey and the neighbouring garden of Priory House. No doubt, the famous Snowdrop Afternoon at St Andrew's will return in future years, as a focal point of the social calendar in the village. We may have missed that treat in 2020 and 2021 but thankfully the churchyard was able to host Muddy Christingle during the Christmas holidays. This was a safe, outdoor opportunity to engage with 'the reason for the season' and the brainchild of Muddy Church and The Children's Society. It was good to partner with Swavesey Primary School and the 5folds group of churches in offering the sensory trail.

I am not known for my green fingers or gardening skills. Nor am I blessed with any botanical expertise. However, having moved here in August, I am watching and waiting to see what emerges beneath the trees in my garden. I recall spotting some daffodils when I first visited in March. Then some pink violets (I think) nestled under the hazel tree when I arrived in the summer. I took care not to mow over them when cutting the grass. I look forward to a few more pleasant surprises in the coming months.

As we head into the Spring, and as the weather improves, may we be able to cherish once again the canopy of flowers that give colour to the great outdoors. Covid-19 cannot rob us of this delight.

Rev'd Lucy Cleland,
Team Vicar (Designate) in Swavesey, Willingham, Longstanton and Over (5folds group).
T: (01954) 277758
E: lucy@5folds.org.uk

St Andrew's News and Services

Hopefully, by the time you read this in February, the vaccine against the virus will have been widely distributed and life might be a little easier for us all.
This will be the pattern for our church services from now until Easter: -

First Sunday in the month: 11am: Holy Communion

Second Sunday in the month: 11am: Morning Prayer

Third Sunday in the month: 11am: Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday in the month: No Service

For up to date information about Lent and Easter Services in St Andrew's, please check our page on the benefice website: -
www.5folds.org.uk/church/st-andrews-swavesey

For details about online services go to: -
www.5folds.org.uk/page/online-services-and-resources

St Ives Food Bank
We continue to support this local food bank, regularly delivering donations of food to the centre in St Ives. They offer support to people over shorter and longer periods of time: for example, helping families out in the short term whilst they are waiting for Universal Credit payments. If someone is needing their help over a longer period, the centre will try to ascertain what the person's issue is so that they can direct them to the right help. Ultimately, the centre's aim is to help individuals take back control of their lives so that they will be in a position where they don't need to use food banks any more. People can be referred by St Andrew's, by the Parish Council or they can refer themselves; details can be found here: http://www.stivesparishchurch.org.uk/foodbank.

If you want to make a food donation, please bring it to church on Wednesday afternoons when we are open for prayer or to a Sunday service or contact a churchwarden who will arrange a collection with you. You can visit the food bank's website (as above) to find out what the centre currently needs.

Contacts
Please contact our Priest in charge, Simon Gill or our Team Vicar, Lucy Cleland if you wish to speak to a member of the clergy. For admin matters like baptisms, weddings or funerals, please contact our benefice administrator, Gillian Beale.

Rev'd Simon Gill:	01954 230434	simon@5folds.org.uk
Rev'd Lucy Cleland:	01954 277758	lucy@5folds.org.uk
Nicky Carne	01954 230971	nicky_carne@hotmail.com
Jacqui Fuller	01954 230774	jacqui_fuller@hotmail.com
Gillian Beale	01954 203459	admin@5folds.org.uk

BETHEL
BAPTIST CHURCH

Thank you for tuning into our various services over the past year. All our videos are still available to watch on Youtube if you'd like to repeat any. Please keep checking our Facebook page and Website for up to date notices as we approach Easter. Unfortunately it is very difficult for us to plan ahead right now!

CONTACT US

In times of uncertainty we want you to know that you can count on God, and by extension us as a church. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Stacey Alsop (Admin) - admin@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

John Porter (Secretary) - secretary@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

Wendy Whistler (Treasurer) treasurer@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

Marianne Holt (Youthworker) - marianne@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

Wendy Snead (Pastoral Care) - pastoralcare@bethelbaptistchurch.org.uk

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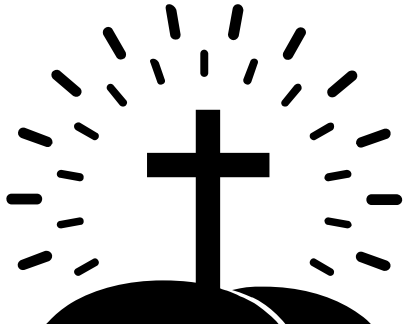
www.youtube.com/SwaveseyBethel



Community Groups & Charities

Swavesey Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	A voluntary group who meet on the first Monday each month to set out the vision for Swavesey and the planning policies needed to manage development according to the wishes of the local community. See http://www.swavesey.org.uk/neighbourhood-plan/ or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk for more information
Cam Sight	Cam Sight is a local charity which offers support to anyone with a visual impairment, along with their family and carers. We meet on the 4th Wednesday afternoon of each month in Bar Hill. For more information please telephone Joan in Bar Hill on 01954 200622 or Alison at Cam Sight on 01223 420033 or email alison@camsight.org.uk. For more info see:- www.camsight.org.uk
Cambridgeshire Hearing Help	CHH is a charity that helps people with hearing loss. Volunteers service NHS hearing aids and provide batteries and they attend Swavesey quarterly at Thistle Green. Advice on any aspects of hearing loss is available at a hearing help session or by calling the office on 01223 416141, e-mail enquiries@cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk or check the website cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
Care Network	Care Network supports volunteers, encourages independence and develops good neighbour projects. We provide the Welcome Home from Hospital service across Cambridgeshire. Contact:- Care Network, 5 Broadway House, 149-151 St Neots Rd, Hardwick, Cambridge, CB23 7QJ (tel: 01954 211919). care-network.org.uk/
Community First Responder Scheme	The local group in Over and Swavesey has provided help over many hours and attended over 20 patients in your community. You can support the group and help to fundraise for equipment or volunteer to become a Community First Responder within your community. Contact:- responderadmin@eastamb.nhs.uk or call 01284 731802
Swavesey Library	A volunteer run community library based in Swavesey Village College. We are able to providing a full range of library facilities being directly linked to the Cambridgeshire County Council library service. For more info see:- www.swavesey.org.uk/village-link/swavesey-library
The Friends of the Rosie Hospital	The Friends of the Rosie Hospital are helping to make the Rosie a more comfortable environment for mothers and babies. Contact:- Mrs Mary Sanders (Hon Chair) rosieinstitches@ukonline.co.uk Tel 01223 356615
East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH)	Put your free time to good use and volunteer at East Anglia's Children's Hospice (EACH) in Milton. Volunteering at a children's hospice doesn't always mean care work and fundraising as there are also tasks such as admin and maintenance of the grounds. Contact:- Clare Bates on 01223 815 134, email clare.bates@each.org.uk
Community Resourcing	We have a small group of local volunteers (local residents from our community) who would like to help other members of our community with any practical tasks. Contact:- Parish Council Tel: 01954 202982 or Email: clerk@swavesey.org.uk
OWLS Community Car Scheme	Run by DBS checked volunteers the scheme offers a door-to-door service, for medical or some social journeys, to people who are unable to access other forms of transport. Ring 07505 254363 to book a journey, find out more, or to volunteer as a driver

CLUB INFORMATION

<table>
<tr><td>Army Cadet Force</td><td>Swavesey Detachment, No 2 (Cromwell) Company, Cambridgeshire Army Cadet Force meets each Tuesday evening at the Swavesey Village College from 7 pm. New recruits are welcomed from ages 12 years (year 8) to 18 years. Contact - Sgt Phill Barrett phone 07786981380</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over District Girlguiding
Swavesey and Over</td><td>
<table>
<tr><th>Unit</th><th>Evening</th><th>Contact</th></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Rainbows</td><td>Thurs</td><td>caroline@overroad.co.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Brownies</td><td>Mon</td><td>swaveseyeagleowl@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Guides</td><td>Thurs</td><td>swaveseyguides@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over Rainbows</td><td>Mon</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Rangers</td><td>Thurs</td><td>seniorsectionoverdistrict@gmail.com</td></tr>
<tr><td>Over Brownies</td><td>Wed</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Over Guides</td><td>Tue</td><td></td></tr>
</table>
</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Spartans</td><td>Swavesey Spartans are a Chartered Standard Youth Football Club affiliated to Cambridgeshire Football Association. The club runs boys and girls teams from under 6 through to under 17.
For information and enquiries please contact
Chairman - Gary Peet on 07976 359494
Secretary - Colin Baker on 07976 636771
Club Welfare Officer - Carolyn Merricks on 01954 20497</td></tr>
<tr><td>1st Swavesey Scout Group</td><td>All sections meet at the Scout Hut on the SVC site.
Cubs
Day: Tuesday. Time: 18:00 to 19:15
Contact: Steven Wilson - Cub Leader
Email: steven.wilson@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
Scouts
Day: Monday. Time: 19:00 to 20:30
Contact: Jim Burling - Group Scout Leader
Email: jim.burling@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk
For any other Scouting enquiries
Email: info@1stswaveseyscoutgroup.org.uk</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre</td><td>Swavesey Early Years and Playwork Centre are based in their own purpose-built unit on the primary school site. It comprises Early Years children (aged 2 – 4 years) between 9am and 3pm (formerly Swavesey Pre School) and we provide activities and care for primary school aged children before and after school. Breakfast Club runs from 7.30 am to 9am and After School Club from 3.15pm to 6pm. For information please contact Carol Panther (Early Years and Playwork Manager) by email: eyandp@swavesey.cambs.sch.uk or by phone 01954 273312 or 07803 812221.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Swavesey Music School</td><td>Meets every Saturday of term time at Swavesey Village College. Only £3.00 per session. For further details see:
www.swaveseymusic.co.uk/</td></tr>
</table>

Health and Wellbeing Club	A club for older adults which runs on the last Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. The group meets at the Community Centre, Thistle Green, Swavesey from 10.00 to 11.30am. Refreshments, chair-based exercises, speakers and time for conversation. No booking is required and the group is Free.
British Tang Soo Do Institute	British Tang Soo Do Institute practices the Korean martial art of Tang Soo Do. Our club training covers self defence techniques and many aspects of fitness including flexibility, coordination, conditioning, balance and discipline helping to promote a healthy lifestyle. For further information please contact Master Jeff Cockram on 07863 345681 or jeff@btsdi.co.uk or see our website: www.btsdi.com
Swavesey Tang Soo Do Club	Swavesey Tang Soo Do have classes on a Monday and Wednesday in the primary school main hall. Beginners and junior grades are 6pm-7pm and senior grades 7pm-8:15pm. The contact details are Mr and Mrs Morton 07919 050261 and enquiries@swaveseytsd.co.uk. The website is www.swaveseytsd.co.uk
Allotments in Swavesey	Down Hale Road towards the windmill and on the right there are 61 plots, mostly 150 sq yds (125 m2) in area, backed up by eight water tanks. Large yields of a wide range of high quality vegetable, fruit and flower crops can be grown successfully. If you are interested in joining the waiting list contact Russell Fear on 01954 202846.
British Legion	For information contact:- Secretary - Angela Dye. 01954 277453. email: dyeangela0@gmail.com
Swavesey Badminton Club	Located at the Swavesey Village College Sports Centre.The Club offers a high standard of play at club nights on Tuesdays 7pm to 8pm and on Fridays from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. We play competitive badminton in the Cambridge leagues and run men's, women's and mixed teams.Contact Helen Taylor on 01954 230997 Email: enquiries@swaveseybadminton.net website: www.swaveseybadminton.net
Swavesey Billiards and Snooker Club	For information/membership please contact Graeme Waites (01954 230113) Email graham.waites566@btinternet.com
Swavesey Camera Club	At Swavesey Camera Club we are proud to cater for photographers of all standards. For more information visit our website at www.swaveseycameraclub.co.uk. We meet every Thursday, 7.30 - 9.30pm, Lecture Room, SVC. Non-members welcome - £4 charge (first visit free). For further details please ring Simon Shore 01954 230848
Swavesey Squash Club	Swavesey Squash Club has three international standard squash courts, in our recently refurbished clubhouse, on the Swavesey Village College site. The club has a number of weekly sessions running, suitable for beginners, improvers, and more advanced players. Unlimited use of the facility from £17 a month. A welcoming and active community club with social events and opportunities for competition. Visit our website for more details or contact Ali Loke on 07776 176866/ali@alilokesquash.com. www.swaveseysquash.com

Over Netball Club	We train on a Tuesday night 7pm till 8.30pm on the outdoor courts at Swavesey Village College. Small friendly club, play in CDNL local league, beginners/ everyone welcome. Cost £3 per session. Contact is Lindsay Foster - lindsayfoster001@gmail.com 01954 202070 or 07543 460725
Compass Cafe	Meets every Thursday morning from 10.30 until 12.00 at Bethel Baptist Church. Contact Sue Ellington on 01954 202923 or sue.ellington@virgin.net
Swavesey Community Choir	If you enjoy singing and having fun then come and join Swavesey Community Choir. We meet every Wednesday in term time in St. Cecilia's Hall at SVC, from 7.30pm - 9pm. You don't need to be able to read music and no auditions needed, tenor and bass voices particularly welcome. For further details contact Chrissie Richardson 07881 824095.Website: www.swaveseycommunitychoir.co.uk
Swavesey District Bridleway Association	A liaison group representing local horse riders whose main aim is to protect existing and create safe new horse riding links between all local villages. New members welcome. Regular Newsletter/Social events calendar. Please contact Sue Rogers (01954) 232758
Swavesey & District History Society	Meet every third Tuesday in the month, 7.30pm, Global Resources Centre, SVC. Contact Carolyn Redmayne, Secretary (01954) 230037
Swavesey Institute Football Club	New players always welcome, please contact: Phil Baines on 01954 200377 [Saturday sides] or Jerry Ladell on (01954) 201018 [Veterans side].
Linedance	Linedance classes held on Wednesday mornings at the Bethel Baptist Church 9-30 to 11-30 am. Beginners always welcome. Contact Deborah Walker 01954231382 Email: deborahwalker105@talktalk.net
Swavesey & Over Conservation Society	Meet at Bethel Baptist Church, Middlewatch Swavesey CB24 4RP commencing at 7.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month unless otherwise stated. If you need a lift: PHONE: Trevor Grange - 01954 230119 or Pat Miles - 01954 780485. Guests Are Always Welcome!
Swavesey & Over Tennis Club	Club night 1 October to 1 April is on Monday, 7.00 to 9.00pm. From 1 April - 30 September there will be club nights on both Mondays and Wednesdays. We welcome new members from anywhere in the locality. Further information from s.taylor996@btinternet.com www.swaveseyandovertennisclub.btck.co.uk
Swavesey RADSoc	Friendly local drama group staging two or three productions a year.New members always welcome.Contact: Nathalie Balzano: nathaliewoodward@hotmail.com Visit our website at www.swaveseyradsoc.org.uk
Swavesey Speakers	Develop your public speaking skills at this Toastmasters International club. Guests welcome! 1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Memorial Hall from 7pm to 9pm (occasional venue change). More details: www.swaveseyspeakers.toastmastersclubs.org or call/text Faye on 07908 443610.
Swavesey W.I.	We meet every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. New members are always welcome to enjoy a variety of invited speakers and have a chat and cup of tea/coffee afterwards. For further information contact Linda Saunders (01954) 201162

THE MERIDIAN ADVERTISER

February/March

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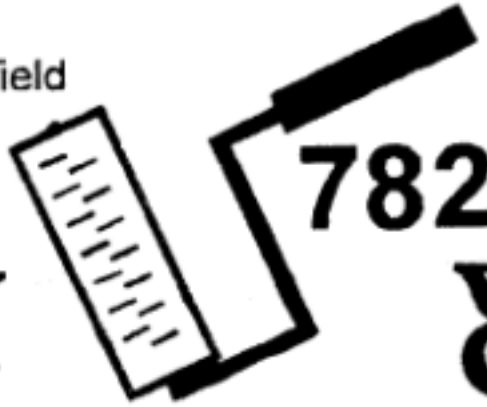

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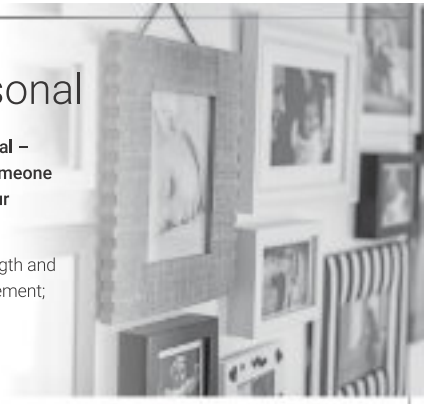

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Event _____

Location _____ Date _____ Time _____

Contact Name _____ Tel No. _____

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Swavesey Camera Club

Annual Photographic Exhibition

Our Annual Exhibition has been an established event in the Swavesey calendar for years. It is an important opportunity for club members to demonstrate our photographic vision and skills to the public. Unfortunately we could not hold the 2020 exhibition last April because of the Covid lockdown. Given the continuing uncertainty over public gatherings as we move towards spring, we have decided that we will be holding our 2021 Photographic Exhibition online. Participation by all club members is encouraged and we will have a diverse and fascinating display of digital photographs, AV presentations and images that have scored highly in competition in club and external competitions.

Each year we host an Open Photographic Competition within our Annual Exhibition. Our aim is to encourage photography amongst everyone in the local community. The Competition is open to all amateur photographers. Prizes will be awarded in three categories; junior school age, senior school age and adults (see website below for further details).